

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ :

A61K 38/26, C07K 14/605

A1

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 96/20005

(43) International Publication Date:

4 July 1996 (04.07.96)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/DK95/00516

(22) International Filing Date: 21 December 1995 (21.12.95)

(30) Priority Data:

1478/94

23 December 1994 (23.12.94) DK

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOVO
NORDISK A/S [DK/DK]; Novo Allé, DK-2880 Bagsværd
(DK).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): JENSEN, Ejvind
[DK/DK]; Nordvangsparken 16, DK-3460 Birkerød (DK).
JØRGENSEN, Klavs, Holger [DK/DK]; Askevænget 47,
DK-2830 Virum (DK).

(74) Common Representative: NOVO NORDISK A/S; Corporate
Patents, Novo Allé, DK-2880 Bagsværd (DK).

(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN,
CZ, EE, FI, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK,
LR, LS, LT, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ,
PL, RO, RU, SD, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UG, US,
UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR,
GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF,
BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG),
ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG).

Published

With international search report.

(54) Title: PROTRACTED GLP-1 COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract

Thixotropic compositions containing GLP-1 compounds have protracted action.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AM	Armenia	GB	United Kingdom	MW	Malawi
AT	Austria	GE	Georgia	MX	Mexico
AU	Australia	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BB	Barbados	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
BY	Belarus	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CF	Central African Republic	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CG	Congo	KZ	Kazakhstan	SG	Singapore
CH	Switzerland	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LK	Sri Lanka	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LR	Liberia	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LT	Lithuania	SZ	Swaziland
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DK	Denmark	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
EE	Estonia	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	UG	Uganda
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	US	United States of America
FR	France	MR	Mauritania	UZ	Uzbekistan
GA	Gabon			VN	Viet Nam

Protracted GLP-1 Compositions

FIELD OF THIS INVENTION

The present invention relates to a composition containing GLP-1 compounds having protracted action and to a process for preparation thereof.

5 BACKGROUND OF THIS INVENTION

Diabetes is characterized by an impaired glucose metabolism manifesting itself among other things by an elevated blood glucose level in the diabetic patients. Underlying defects lead to a classification of diabetes into two major groups, i.e., type I and type II diabetes. Type I diabetes, also designated insulin demanding dia-
10 betes mellitus (IDDM), arises when patients lack β -cells producing insulin in their pancreatic glands. Type II diabetes, also designated non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM), occurs in patients with an impaired β -cell function besides a range of other abnormalities.

Type I diabetic patients are currently treated with insulin while the
15 majority of type II diabetic patients are treated either with agents that stimulate β -cell function or with agents that enhance the tissue sensitivity of the patients towards insulin.

Glucagon-like peptide-1, also designated GLP-1, is a peptide sequence found as a constituent of mammalian proglucagon. In 1985, it was demonstrated
20 that GLP-1(1-36) amide stimulates insulin release from isolated precultured rat pancreatic islets in the presence of glucose in a dose-dependent manner. This finding suggests that GLP-1(1-36) amide and related peptides might be useful in the treatment of type II diabetes. In recent years, particular interest has focused on GLP-1 fragments such as GLP-1(7-37) and GLP-1(7-36) amide and analogues and

functional derivatives thereof. Hereinafter, these compounds are designated GLP-1 compounds.

It has been found that GLP-1 compounds such as GLP-1(7-37) and GLP-1(7-36) amide have a too fast action when administered to human subjects. Therefore, there is a need for compositions containing GLP-1 compounds and having a protracted action. The availability of such protracted compositions will spare the diabetics the chore and discomfort of multiple daily injections.

Apparently, some theoretical possibilities of controlling the duration of action of GLP-1(7-37) is described at the bottom of Column 6 in US patent specification No. 5,120,712. The possibilities mentioned therein are the use of polymers to complex or adsorb GLP-1(7-37), the selection of appropriate macromolecules (for example, protamine sulphate is mentioned among other), the incorporation of GLP-1(7-37) into particles of a polymeric material or the entrapment of GLP-1(7-37) in microcapsules.

A huge number of possible ways of preparing prolonged delivery of certain GLP-1 compounds is described in a European patent application having publication number 619,322. The possibilities mentioned therein are to add a polymer, to prepare an oil suspension, to add zinc (II), to add a metal, to add a basic polypeptide, to add a phenolic compound, to prepare an amorphous/crystalline formulation, or to use a liposome delivery system.

None of these known compositions are gels or thixotropic compositions.

One object of this invention is to provide compositions containing GLP-1 compounds and having a protracted action.

A further object of this invention is to provide compositions containing GLP-1 compounds and having a sufficient high stability, e.g. chemical stability and, especially, physical stability.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THIS INVENTION

Surprisingly, it has been found that compositions containing a GLP-1 compound and a phenolic and/or an alcoholic aromatic compound in certain concentrations result in a thixotropic gel showing a protracted release of the active GLP-1 compound.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THIS INVENTION

This invention deals with compounds having GLP-1 like activity herein referred to as GLP-1 compounds. GLP-1 compounds bind to the GLP-1 receptor (vide Proc.Nat. Acad.Sci.USA 89 (1992), 8641). Examples of specific GLP-1 compounds are polypeptides comprising the 7 - 34 amino acid sequence of GLP-1, viz. formula I:

His-Ala-Glu-Gly-Thr-Phe-Thr-Ser-Asp-Val-Ser-Ser-Tyr-Leu-Glu-Gly-Gln-Ala-Ala-Lys-Glu-Phe-Ile-Ala-Trp-Leu-Val-Lys

(I)

or a peptide sequence derived from formula I without eliminating the GLP-1 like activity. The term GLP-1 compound also comprises derivatives of said polypeptides such as acid addition salts, carboxylate salts, lower alkyl esters, amides, lower alkyl amides and lower dialkyl amides.

The compositions of this invention are gels. In a preferred embodiment, the gels have thixotropic properties. One way of preparing the thixotropic gels according to this invention is to mix the GLP-1 compound with a phenolic or an alcoholic aromatic compound in an aqueous medium. Preferably, the phenolic or alcoholic aromatic compound is a pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial preservative. Non-limiting examples of such compounds include benzyl alcohol, a cresol, e.g., m-cresol, a phenol, e.g., phenol or resorcinol, or a paraben, e.g., methyl paraben or propyl paraben. The compositions of this invention may contain both a

phenolic or an alcoholic aromatic compound and a divalent metal ion, preferably in the form of a salt. A preferred ion is Zn(II). Other metal ions may also be used including Ca(II), Mg(II), Co(II), Mn(II), Fe(II), and Cu(II). For example, the divalent metal salts can be the chloride or another pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

5 Depending on which process has been used during the purification of the GLP-1 compound, it is, in some cases preferred to add an acetate and, in other cases, preferred to avoid the presence of acetate in the final GLP-1 composition.

The compositions of this invention can be prepared by using the GLP-1 compound in a concentration within a certain range. Consequently, a preferred em-

10 bodiment of this invention is compositions containing not less than about 2 mg/ml, preferably not less than about 5 mg/ml, more preferred not less than about 10 mg/ml of a GLP-1 compound and, preferably, containing not more than about 100 mg/ml of a GLP-1 compound.

Another preferred embodiment of this invention relates to a thixotropic

15 composition containing no compounds which are known to form thixotropic mixtures. It is novel that GLP-1 compounds and phenolic or alcoholic aromatic compounds which can safely be administered to human beings in medicaments can form thixotropic gels.

In addition to the specific ingredients which are to be present in the com-

20 positions of this invention, said composition may also, in addition to water, contain a pH buffering agent, an osmotic pressure controlling agent or other ancillary agents.

The compositions of this invention can be used as an insulinotropic agent in the treatment of diabetes. The dosage to be administered to human subjects is conveniently determined by a physician. The dosage may be in the range 1 - 1,000

25 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$. Normally, the compositions of this invention are administered subcutaneously or intramuscularly.

The features disclosed in the present description, examples and claims may, both separately and in any combination thereof, be material for realizing this invention in diverse forms thereof.

This invention is further illustrated by the following examples which are not
5 to be construed as limiting, but merely as an illustration of some preferred features of this invention. Additional preferred embodiments of this invention are stated in the claims.

Study of gelling and thixotropic properties

When evaluating compositions for their gelling and thixotropic properties, the
10 following tests, which are performed at a temperature of 20-25°C, can be used:

- Step 1: A cylindrical glass vial having a flat bottom, an inner diameter of about 6.4 mm and a height of about 4 cm is filled to a height of about 1 cm from the bottom with the composition which is to be tested. The filling can be made using a syringe. The glass vial used
15 can be a 1 ml Clear Glass Vial With Caps from Waters, USA (part No. 78514).
- Step 2: The vial is equipped with a cap and is stored for 24 hours.
- Step 3: After removal of the cap, a glass ball is very cautiously placed at the top of the composition to be tested. This glass ball has a weight of
20 about 17-18 mg and a diameter of about 2.4 mm. After standing for 1 hour, the glass ball should not sink more than about 5 mm.
- Step 4: Thereafter, the vial is placed in a vortex mixer (for example, a whirli-mixer from Fisons Scientific Apparatus, England) and shaken. During this mixing step, the ball shall drop to the bottom.

For preferred compositions according to this invention the glass ball should not sink more than about 5 mm after standing for 5 hours in step 3 above, and more preferred it does not sink more than about 5 mm after standing for 24 hours in step 3 above.

- 5 A still further feature of preferred compositions according to this invention is that Step 4 is followed by the following steps:

Step 5: The vial is equipped with a cap and is stored for 24 hours.

Step 6: Thereafter, the vial is turned upside-down.

Step 7: After standing for 1 hour, the glass ball should not sink more than
10 about 5 mm.

For preferred compositions according to this invention the glass ball should not sink more than about 5 mm after standing for 5 hours in step 7 above, and more preferred it does not sink more than about 5 mm after standing for 24 hours in step 7 above.

15 Absorption studies.

The absorption of the GLP-1(7-37) compositions, described in the examples, were studied in pigs after subcutaneous injection. The compositions were made from a mixture of GLP-1(7-37) and a trace amount of ^{125}I -GLP-1(7-37). One composition was injected at one side of the neck and another composition at the other side in
20 each of 6 pigs. The absorption was followed by external monitoring of the radioactivity remaining at the site of injection. The injections were performed by Novo-Pen[®] to a depth of 5 mm.

Example 1

The zinc free gel composition of this invention designated A was: 20 mg/ml GLP-1(7-37), 16 mg/ml glycerol, and 3 mg/ml m-cresol (pH value: 7.2).

This composition was made by mixing 2.5 ml acidic GLP-1(7-37) solution (20 mg/ml) with 7.5 μ l of m-cresol and 40 mg of glycerol, followed by adjustment of the pH value, which was made possible by the thixotropic properties of the gel that assumed low viscosity by stirring. A high viscosity gel was formed soon after stirring was stopped. 60 μ l was injected in each pig.

Example 2

10 The zinc containing gel composition of this invention designated B was: 20 mg/ml GLP-1(7-37), 0.5 mmol/l Zn^{++} , 16 mg/ml glycerol, and 3 mg/ml m-cresol. The molar ratio between Zn^{++} and GLP-1(7-37) was 0.08.

This composition was made by mixing 1 ml of GLP-1(7-37) solution (40 mg/ml), adjusted to a pH value of 7.4, with 1 ml of a solution containing 6 g/l m-cresol, 32 g/l glycerol and 1 mmol/l zinc acetate. A high viscosity gel was formed soon after mixing. 80 μ l were injected in each pig.

Example 3

The zinc containing gel composition of this invention designated C was: 20 mg/ml GLP-1(7-37), 1 mmol/l Zn^{++} , 16 mg/ml glycerol, and 3 mg/ml m-cresol. The molar ratio between Zn^{++} and GLP-1(7-37) was 0.17.

20 This composition was made by mixing 1 ml of GLP-1(7-37) solution (40 mg/ml), adjusted to a pH value of 7.4, with 1 ml of a solution containing 6 g/l m-cresol, 32 g/l glycerol and 2 mmol/l zinc acetate. A high viscosity gel was formed soon after mixing. 80 μ l were injected in each pig.

Example 4

The zinc containing gel composition of this invention designated D was: 20 mg/ml GLP-1(7-37), 2 mmol/l Zn^{++} , 16 mg/ml glycerol, and 3 mg/ml m-cresol. The molar ratio between Zn^{++} and GLP-1(7-37) was 0.33.

- 5 This composition was made by mixing 1 ml of GLP-1(7-37) solution (40 mg/ml), adjusted to a pH value of 8.7, with a 1 ml of a solution containing 6 mg/ml m-cresol, 32 g/l glycerol, and 4 mmol/l zinc acetate. A high viscosity gel was formed soon after mixing. 80 μ l were injected in each pig.

Example 5

- 10 As a non-gel, non-protracted solution of GLP-1(7-37) for use as a reference in the absorption studies, the following low concentrated zinc free GLP-1(7-37) composition designated REF was chosen: 1 mg/ml GLP-1(7-37), 16 mg/ml glycerol, 3 mg/ml phenol (pH value: 7.3).

The results of the absorption studies from Examples 1 - 5 are shown in the Table
15 below.

TABLE

Time after injection Hours	% Residual radioactivity				
	Prepara- tion A	Prepara- tion B	Prepara- tion C	Prepara- tion D	Prepara- tion REF
5	0	100	100	100	100
	1	-	-	-	42.6
	1.5	70.6	-	-	-
	2	-	64.1	76.6	94.7
	3	36.8	-	-	4.5
10	4	-	44.4	67.0	91.3
	5	10.3	-	-	1.9
	6	-	32.7	60.8	-
	6.5	-	-	-	1.7
	7	3.4	-	-	-
15	15.5	-	-	59.2	-
	21.5	-	-	40.3	-
	24	-	2.4	12.8	1.1
	40	-	-	9.1	-
20	T-50% (hours)*	2.3	3.3	8.4	19.3
					0.8

* Time until 50% of initial radioactivity remaining in the tissue, calculated on the basis of exponential disappearance between adjacent time points.

As appears from these data, the compositions of this invention are considerably more protracted than the reference solution.

CLAIMS

1. A composition containing a GLP-1 compound which composition is a gel.
2. A composition, according to Claim 1, which composition has thixotropic properties.
- 5 3. Composition, according to Claim 1 or 2, containing not less than about 2 mg/ml, preferably not less than about 5 mg/ml, more preferred not less than about 10 mg/ml of a GLP-1 compound and, preferably, containing not more than about 100 mg/ml of a GLP-1 compound.
4. Composition, according to any one of the preceding claims, containing a
10 phenolic or an alcoholic aromatic compound.
5. Composition, according to the preceding claim, wherein the phenolic or alcoholic aromatic compound is a pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial preservative.
6. Composition, according to the preceding claim, wherein the phar-
15 maceutically acceptable antimicrobial preservative is benzyl alcohol, a cresol, e.g., m-cresol, a phenol, e.g., phenol or resorcinol, or a paraben, e.g., methyl paraben or propyl paraben.
7. Composition, according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the
20 thixotropic property only or mainly results from the presence of a GLP-1 compound.

8. Composition, according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the thixotropic property only or mainly results from the presence of a GLP-1 compound together with a pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial preservative.
9. Composition, according to anyone of the preceding claims, containing divalent metal ions, e.g. zinc, calcium, magnesium or cobalto ions.
10. Composition, according to the preceding claim, wherein the metal ions are zinc ions.
11. Composition, according to anyone of the preceding claims, containing 1 zinc ion per molecule of the GLP-1 compound or less and, preferably, they contain less than 0.4 zinc ion per molecule of the GLP-1 compound, more preferred they contain between 0.4 and 0.1 zinc ion per molecule of the GLP-1 compound and most preferred between 0.2 and above 0.1 zinc ion per molecule of the GLP-1 compound.
12. A method for the treatment of diabetes mellitus in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a composition according to any one of the preceding claims containing an effective amount of the GLP-1 compound.
13. A method, according to the preceding claim, wherein the administration is performed by subcutaneous injection.
14. Any novel feature or combination of features described herein.

1
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 95/00516

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: A61K 38/26, C07K 14/605
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: C07K, A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
SE,OK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

MEDLINE, BIOSIS, EMBASE, WPIL, CLAIMS, CA, WPAT, USPM, JAPIO

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0619322 A2 (PFIZER INC.), 12 October 1994 (12.10.94), page 18, line 6 - line 18; page 18, line 36 - line 39; page 19, line 4 - line 10, claims 5-6,8-9; examples 16,17,20-22; example 44, example 37	1-11
	--	
A	WO 8706941 A1 (THE GENERAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION), 19 November 1987 (19.11.87)	1-11
	--	
A	US 5214035 A (JAMES L. VEATCH), 25 May 1993 (25.05.93)	1-11
	--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 March 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

02-04-1996

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Swedish Patent Office
Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Carl-Olof Gustafsson
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 95/00516

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 5180522 A (YOSHIKI KAWASHIMA ET AL), 19 January 1993 (19.01.93)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-- -----</p>	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

05/02/96

International application No.
PCT/DK '95/00516

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A2- 0619322	12/10/94	NONE	
WO-A1- 8706941	19/11/87	AT-T- 110083	15/09/94
		DE-D, T- 3750402	01/12/94
		EP-A, B- 0305387	08/03/89
		SE-T3- 0305387	
		EP-A- 0587255	16/03/94
		JP-T- 1502746	21/09/89
		US-A- 5118666	02/06/92
		US-A- 5120712	09/06/92
US-A- 5214035	25/05/93	NONE	
US-A- 5180522	19/01/93	JP-C- 1833500	29/03/94
		JP-A- 63218247	12/09/88

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☒ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.